THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) There are four villages inside the Core Area of the Similipal Tiger Reserve.

(b) So far 64 families of three villages have been rehabilitated at Ambadiha and Kapand rehabilitation colony. The entire amount of Rs. 46.75 lakhs was released by the Central Government for rehabilitaiton of the inhabitants of these villages. Of this Rs. 46.74321 lakh have been utilised by the Collector, Mayurbhanj.

(c) 'Great Indian Bustard' is included in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Its crucial habitats have been notified as Sanctuaries or National Parks. Central Assistance is being provided for the protection and development of these areas.

(d) The major protected areas for conservation of 'Great Indian Bustard' are:—

1. Desert National Park, Rajasthan
2. Karera Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh
3. Ghatigaon Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh
4. Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh
5. Gaga Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat
6. Great Indian Bustard (Nanaj) Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra

Settlement of villages outside Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary

1373.SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the villages and settlements inside the Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary in Orissa, planned for resettlement outside the Sanctuary since 1984 and how many have been resettled, so far;

(b) the reasons for delay in resettlement, which is causing harm to both the human beings and the wildlife;

(c) what steps are being taken for expeditious resettlement of these villagers; and

(d) how much compensation has been paid and how much is yet to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Since 1984, State Government had a plan to relocate outside the sanctuary area the inhabitants of five hamlets, namely Pithakia, Bahanigadia, Dholkoth, Nuakua, and Bahantasahi, situated inside Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary. The State Government has reported that so far only 62 families of Bahantasahi and 23 families of Dholkoth have been resettled at Krushanagar and Tulsidelpur resettlement sites.

(b) to (d) Though 400 houses have been constructed under the Indira Awas Yojna to rehabilitate the affected families, the response to shift has been lukewarm because of non allotment of land to these families. The rehabilitation scheme has been revised to address the difficulties faced during the rehabilitation.

Against the estimated compensation of Rs. 1.0343 crores for acquisition of land for rehabilitation an amount of Rs. 69.26 lakhs has been made available to the district authorities. Of this Rs. 58.63 lakhs have been disbursed to the villagers. The balance amount to be paid as compensation will have to be worked out after taking into account the interest payable till the date on which payment is actually made.

Illegal Cutting of Forests

†1374.SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal cutting in forest areas and criminal activities of the Mafia gangs connected with it have increased in States like Bihar;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to toughen security of natural resources like forests;

(c) whether the recent murder of a forest officer in Rohtas District of Bihar and the alleged assualt by Police on 13 tribal women in Raipur District of Chhattisgarh are associated with corruption, crime and irregularities, prevailing in the forest areas; and

(d) if so, whether Government would conduct an inquiry into these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There is no report with the Central Government

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.